

TWO UP-THEN WANDERERS SLIDE TO DISASTER

Defence Errors Give Barnet Cup Win

AS late-comers edged their way into the sunny Barnet ground on Saturday they could hardly believe it when they were told that Barnet, unbeaten this season and topping the Athenian League with 57 goals in 13 matches, were 2-0 down against Wycombe Wanderers after only three minutes.

Excited Wycombe officials quickly telephoned the news to Loakes Park and supporters watching the reserve game cheered when they heard the news.

But 85 minutes later it was a different story. A magnificent fighting recovery by Barnet took them level and then past Wycombe's total and into the first round proper of the F.A. Cup competition with a 6-3 victory.

With the score 3-1 in their favour at one time, writes "Nova", the Wanderers seemed all set for glory and perhaps fortune and fame. The home side looked nervous and unsure. Their supporters were worried.

Then, in the 27th minute, Wycombe started their own trail of self-destruction. Lewis and Roystone, who had been previously dominant, decided to leave a harmless-looking through ball to each other. Quick as a flash the bustling Barnet centre-forward Roger Figg nipped in and smacked the ball past a surprised Dennis Syrett.

This was the turning-point of the game. From then on Wycombe were struggling to

retain a grip on the game. They failed and Barnet equalised before half-time. And after the interval, with the slope in their favour, Barnet never looked back.

SHAKY DEFENCE

Luck was against Wycombe when Barnet won the toss and used their plan of kicking uphill first. But it was not luck that enabled Barnet to score half a dozen goals. The only reason was shocking defensive play. At least five of the home side's goals could have been stopped with a little cohesion in the Wanderers' back division.

The tenseness of the situation overcame several of the Wycombe players. Pullin was the main victim. The harder he tried the worse he became against Barnet's chief trickster Roy Drake. But he got little support on the left flank. Gale was rarely in the picture.

Paul Hodges was given the ball only about half-a-dozen times during the match. Wycombe could have done with ten more players of the calibre of Len Worley. He had a hand in all three Wycombe goals but when Barnet realised he was the main danger, two men were detailed to mark him.

SHOCK START

Full-back Voyce tried to slide a short pass back to his goal-keeper after less than two minutes and Worley nipped in and cracked the ball into the net. And in the next minute he placed a corner accurately for Bassett to head Wycombe's second.

Almost from the kick-off Barnet's Welsh international skipper Terry Casey moved uphill and his shot bounced in front of Syrett, skidded under his hands and into the net.

The sensational start had left the crowd of nearly 3,000 breathless—and in the next quarter of an hour there were more thrills. The tremendous tension was

affecting the play and both sides found it difficult to settle down and play at a pace that suited them.

Then, just when it seemed as if Barnet were coming more into the game, Worley struck again. He danced round Voyce, ran up the bye-line and squared the ball back. Centre-half Warman, racing back to cover, could only help the ball over the line.

Things looked black for the home side—but in the 27th minute Roystone and Lewis performed their double 'leave it alone' act for Figg to score, and just on half-time Pullin gave away a needless free-kick and from it Brimacombe hammered home the equaliser.

BARNET RALLY

With Thomas working quietly but tirelessly, and making few errors, Wycombe were still in with a chance although kicking uphill in the second half.

It was obvious that Worley was to be double-marked, but Horseman, Bassett and Beck all looked capable of breaking through and scoring.

But after 57 minutes the home side went ahead for the first time. When Syrett pushed out a Brimacombe shot the ball was kicked back, hit the bar and ran loose to Drake, who scored with an overhead kick.

Spurred by the success, Barnet tore into the attack and Syrett made two sparkling saves. In one of Wycombe's rare breakaways Bassett missed a good chance to equalise with a header but the ball was returned quickly downhill and Figg was allowed to run through the middle unattended and shoot past Syrett.

A minute later Roystone gave away an unnecessary free-kick on the edge of the area and this enabled Figg to complete his hat-trick.

Barnet—B. Goymer, A. Covington, J. Voyce, L. Picking, R. Warman, T. Casey, R. Drake, T. Brimacombe, R. Figg, T. Harding, R. Finch.

Wycombe—D. Syrett, A. Lewis, G. Pullin, D. Thomas, P. Roystone, C. Gale, L. Worley, J. Beck, D. Bassett, T. Horseman, P. Hodges.